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## THE HEBREW-PERSIAN MSS. OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

Rev. G. Margoliouth, giving a list of these MSS. in this Review (vol. VII, II9), says as follows: "The British Museum recently acquired a small collection of MSS. from Teheran, which will be of special interest to students who combine a sufficient mastery of Persian with a knowledge and appreciation of Hebrew literature." These few lines alone are sufficient to encourage every student who occupies himself with this literature, still more, one who was particularly encouraged by that distinguished scholar, and who received from him much valuable advice.

Besides the MSS. mentioned by Rev. G. Margoliouth, there is one acquired later by the British Museum. It is Or. 5446, and it is particularly interesting as it is perhaps the earliest Persian translation of the Pentateuch hitherto known, the translator of which will be discussed later. That there already existed a Persian translation of the Pentateuch anterior to that of Jacob Tavusi is a matter treated upon at length by Prof. Ign. Guidi of Rome ${ }^{1}$. The learned Professor described the Persian translation, of which three MSS. are extant, one in Paris, one in St. Petersburg, and one in the Vatican. He also published two chapters of it, and deduced that it was anterior to Tavusi's translation, and that the latter utilized it for his own version. Now we read in a colophon that this work-we shall discuss later whether it is the original or a copy-was terminated at the beginning of the fourteenth century. Thus we know

[^0]positively that it is two-and-a-half centuries older than Tavusi's translation. We shall see later, perhaps it is also older than the translation treated by Prof. Guidi. I give at the end a short extract as a synopsis of the three translations ${ }^{1}$.

The translator was also a commentator and a grammarian, and very often the translation of the verse is followed by the explanation of the words which seemed to him worthy of remark, and by examples of other passages which contain the same word. Here is an example
 גויאן וויימה ונאם בראדר או יובל אוי בור מהחר המה גירא אוֹ צֹנג וכוניא דומ' למען תפש את בית ישראל בלבם² תפשום חיים ${ }^{3}$ וצלה הניץ אוֹ בואד אזמר תובל קי״ן סיל כונא יעני תיז כונא המה אוֹסתאדי כונא מים 4 ואהן וכואהר תובל קין נעמה דומ' צרי ילטוש עינוי
 . ספר השרשים in his ר' דוד קמחי did not see these two books, first, because the greatest part of the grammatical explanations are peculiar only to our author; for instance, speaking of the word סלם (Gen. xxviii. 12), he says סלם אשתקאק סמל מים ולאם פם פיש אופתאדסת, that is, סמל is derived from by a transposition of the $D$ and the $b$. This idea is expressed by neither of the two above-mentioned grammarians. Speaking of the word
 "the noun of this root is is 'ear,' and $\mathbb{N}$ is very often affixed to a word to indicate it as a noun." This explanation may be applied to אזניך (Deut. xxiii. 14) according to put our author says אמחי in general. Secondly, he is not always careful about his etymology, and very often makes comparisons between words of different roots, but which sound similarly. For instance, at the word מספא (Gen. xxiv. 25), he says, דומ "of the same root is

[^1]the verb ${ }^{1}$, since fodder is a thing which has been crushed." At the word (ibid., 20) he quotes the word צוּ נגון כרדן באוסאנירן נודיכסת Exod. xiv. 27), saying וינער "since to upset is the same idea as to pour." Thus the reading of such etymologies reminds us of those of the recent commentator מצורת דוד, but apart from the etymology the translation itself is good, and it cannot be compared with the commentary just mentioned.

Prof. Guidi remarked justly that the translation of B is made upon the Targum of Onkelos. It may be said it is a version of the Targum, while this translation of A conforms more with the text, and like Rashi follows the Talmudic exegesis, quoting now and then passages from the Talmud. At the passage מפני שיבה תקום (Lev. xix. 32) he expatiates very muc), and quotes a long passage of the Talmud (Kedushin, $32 \mathrm{~b}, 33 \mathrm{a}$ ). The following two verses will particularly show the difference between these two translations, as the Targum corresponds in them very little to the Hebrew text ${ }^{2}$ :-

Genesis iv. 7.

| A. | B. |
| :---: | :---: |
| הא נה אגר ניבי כוני אמורזידה | הא נה אגר ניך באשר כרד |
| אי״ ואגר נה ניכי כוני בדרגאה כטא | צמורידה אייר בתו ואגר נה ניר ניך |
| גאראן גרפּתאר שוי ובתי | דר כרדאר תו ברוז דאוורי כטא |
| אוי ותו מסלם באשי באי |  |
|  |  |
|  | גרדי אמורויר אייד בתו |

Genesis vi. 3.

| וגופת פודאי נה פאינדה באשד רוח מן דר מרדום בנִאוּיד בסבב אניץ אי גושתמנד ובאשנד רווגאראן אוי ק״ב סאל | וגופת כודאי נה תאבת שור איד דארא בד אין דר פיש מן בגֹאוידאן <br>  ועמלהא אישאן בדאן דראוי דאדה אייד באישאן ק״ב סאל אגר תשובה כוננד |
| :---: | :---: |

[^2]Unfortunately the MS. is not complete : it begins with Gen. iii. 8 ; then from Gen. xxxi. 51 to the end, the whole of Exodus, the beginning of Leviticus to xi. 19, and Num. xvii. 4 -xix. 4 are missing. Besides, a great many folios are misplaced, and the order of them would be as follows: 1-27, 45, 39-44, $3^{2}$, 33, 31, 34-37, 30, 28, 52, 46-51, 53-73, 38, 29, 74-119, 121, 122, 120, 123, 124. The verso of folio 123 and the recto of folio 124 contain the conjugation of the Hebrew verb עששה and other grammatical observations. The writing, being very old, is in several places unreadable, and now and then characters are entirely effaced. The verso of folio 124 contains the following colophon, which might tell us precisely who was the translator if its text
 על יד העני הנמאם והצעיר של כל ישראל יצל יוסף בר משה ע״ עוע ונשלמה ביום מ[ע]להּ בשבת שהוא ארבעה ועש וערים יום בחדש אדר שני שנת אלף וששׁ מאות ושלשים לשטרות ואם שגיתי בכתבי הוא ימחול עלי וימחה את ות כל כל ול חטאתי ויכתב עלי חירות מהם בזכות חכמ' ותלמידהם ויסלח לי ועי ויקים עלי
 נבישתה בוד בר בשאם ² ראסת ואו סכונהא מוש(ג) [כ]ל מזכור (?) כו מערח

 ואז רוישאן (?) הא׳ תצריף ונוכתה • • • • כו בכאר שווד אמיכתה כרדה בוד (This Thora of Moses, the divine man (peace be with him) was written in Persian by the poor, dejected and inferior of all Israel, Joseph, son of Moses (may he rest in Paradise). It was terminated Friday, the 24 th day of the second Adar, in the year 1630 of contracts $=5079$ ( $5^{\text {th }}$ March, I319). If I made a mistake, He will forgive me, will efface all my sins, and will inscribe me as exempt from them for the sake of the sages and their disciples. He will pardon me, and will thus accomplish

[^3]on me the verse: 'And it will be forgiven to the whole congregation of Israel,' \&c. (Num. xv. 26). As I saw that the master, Abû Sa'îd, had written a straightforward explanation and explained the difficult words, accompanying them with examples and well-grounded etymologies, so all the twenty-four books . . . . . Only the words which form the text and the grammatical explanations, and the words quoted, had been mingled together by him in order that the reader might be able to go on without stopping to look for the notes."

Thus it seems to me that Joseph b. Moses was only the copyist, and that the translator was Abû Saîd, who lived not later than the thirteenth century. Another fact that confirms my supposition is, that generally it is the copyist who writes his name and the date of the termination of the work. But Dr. W. Bacher's opinion is that Joseph b. Moses was the translator himself, and that Abu $\mathrm{Sa}^{\text {eild }}$ served him as a model. As Dr. W. Bacher is an incontestable authority in these matters I bow to his opinion. On the top of the colophon, we read the following words added by a later hand, with better preserved ink and more incorrect spelling: נכתבו שנת המשת אלאפים שיבעים ושמונה לברית עולם "Written in the year $5078^{1}$ in the era of creation."

As to the transcription, $\mathbb{F}$ is rendered by $\dot{\lessgtr}, ~ ج$ by $!$, and
 . Generally, the transcription is not strictly correct, the $\pi$ sometimes takes the place of the $\pi$, and the $\geq$ that of the 1 .

I give a synoptical view of the three different Persian translations; I choose Gen. xxiv. 1-16, as the translation of these verses in A is not disturbed by commentary.

[^4]דר ذדאי אן אסמאן וכדאי אוֹ זמין אנצּ וֹה נסתאני ק בפסרי מן אוֹ דכתראוֹ אן כנעני אנצּה מן נשינא דר מיאן אוֹ בזמין מן ובמולוד גִאי מן ברוי ובסתאני זן בפסרי מן ביצחק: גפח באו אֹ בנדה מגר נמראד כנד אן באן זמין אין הא באו גרדאנידן באז גרדאנם מר פסרי תו באן זמין אנצּ
 חאור באש בתו תא נבאו גרדאני מר


${ }^{1}$ I transcribed it from the Polyglot Bible, ed. Walton, 1657.
מר פוסר תו באן זמין אנצּ בירון אמרי






 תא נבאו גרדאני אזמר פסר מרא באניֵא:
או אנגאי : וגופת באו אברחם הושיאר
בודאי בתו תא נה באז גרדאני מר פופר

| ᄃc¢L |
| :---: |


 גִּאי מן ברוי ובסתאני זן בפסר מן ביצחק : בוּ
 אן זן באמרן פס מן באין זמין אין הא



C.

זיר ראן אברהם סייד או סווגנד לורד באו אבר אן סכון אין: ובי ראיאניר אור בנדה דה אשת וראן או אושתוראן סייד
 אוי בר ذאסת ובי רפת בארם נהרים בשהר נחור : וביذואבאניר אן אשתוראו בוּ אז בירון בשהר אבאו צואה אב בוקת איבאר בוקת בירון אמדן אב כשאیן : ואידון גפת יא כודאי ذאלק סייד מן אברהם וערה

ב. ואננץ סכון גופת במן ואננֹ וֹא בסת במן בגופתן בפֹרזנדאן תו בדהם אזמר און בון זמין אין אוי בפריסתד מלאך אוי בפיש תו ובסתאני ז בפסר מן או אננִא: ואגר נה מוראר כונד אן אן באמדן פסתו וויثה באשיאו סוגנד מן אין כאצה אזמר פסר באר
 בנדה אזמר דסת אוי פרוד ראן אברהם
 אין סכון אין : ובסתד אן בנדה דה ואר אשתוראן או אשתוּ אוראן בארכודאי יאו וברפת והמה נעמת בּארכודאי אוי דר דסת אוי ובר כאסת וברפת בארם נהרים בשהר נחור: ודר זאנו כשיר אן אשתוראן רא או בירון באן שהר בר צֹאה אן אב בוקת איבאר בוקת בירון אמדן אן אב

[^5]HEBREW-PERSIAN MSS. OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM 285

מן אברהם: אינך מן אסתידה אבר
זן אבאו סייד מן אברהם: אינך מן איסתא אבר צשׁמה אב ודוֹתראן מרדומאן אן שהר בירון איא אן בכשידן אב : ובאשד




 אנוז נה תמאם כרד בספון גפתן ואינר רבקה בירון אמד אנצּ צוּ אדה ארה פרד בבתואל פוםה מלכה ק נחור בראדר אברהם וסבוד אן אבר דוש או : ואו כניזך ניכו דידאר בֹאית דושכיזה מרד נה ذלות סאذת אנרא ופרוד שד באו

צׂשמה ופר כרד סבוד אן ובר אמד: euns a! nehua ebnd han! EGMa! NELLH teen Geç nent ENLELLN, a!
 אב ודוכתראן מרדמאן אין שהר בירון NWN! ECML! NE: tENaL N! ECuL Nod ana En! Exagn! oul achut un 5. אהנגם וגויד ביאהנג והניו אשתוראן תוּרא בוּא אב דהם אנרא נאמזד כרדה באשי בבנדה
 אבאו באר כודאי מן: ובוד אוי או פּ פיש כו תמאם כרר בסכון גפתן ואינך רבקה בירון איא אנץ זאדה אמר בבתואל פסר רפר מלכה זן נחור בראדר אברהם וסבוי אן בר כתיף או : ואוֹ כניזך ניבו דידאר בגאית אשיזה ומרד נשנאכת אן רא וֹא ופרוד שוד באן צּשישה ופור כרד סבוי או

Here we see that the Hebrew is rendered in A by אזמר, and in B and C by מרון is in A בארמודא, מייד , מודאונד , and in Chile in B it is. And as C is incontestably posterior to $A$, one might infer that $B$ is also posterior to the same. But כה=אידון is only found in B, שתתה , סבו , סבור כר is in B תנג, while in A and C אהנג, so we may think that perhaps these differences are more due to local dialects than to age. We see no other difference either of vocabulary or of style between A and B: both use $ו$, abridged from אכנון "now"; both use the older forms of אבר instead of אבר "upon"; אבא instead of or simply באו "with." So that it is difficult to determine which of the two is the older.

Being in the Bible department, I will not leave it before mentioning the not less interesting MS. Or. 4742, Bible stories in verse, by Mulla Shâhîn, in folio, 349 leaves. Properly speaking, this MS. is the Pentateuch versified, but only the historical and epical part of it. The poet omitted entirely Leviticus and a part of Numbers, but the portions which he did versify he treated in full. It is not all like the שירי תפאדת of N. H. Wessely, because this work is only an abridgment of the Pentateuch, while that of Mulla Shâhîn is, on the contrary, a developed versification, and one may see that the poet omitted not a single verse of the text which entered into his poetry. As it is rather an epical poem, the author naturally embellished his work with a great many legends, some of which are found scattered in the rabbinical literature, but most of them, taken from Moslem narrators, are specially current in Persia, a country of such rich imagination. Several legends are found in the ספר הישר, but it is certain that our poet did not know of that book, for he omits several legends related in it. From a poem dedicated to the king, Abû Sa'îd, we are able to establish the date of the poet. For as this king, the great-grandson of Timur-Leng, was killed in the year 1468, Mulla Shâhîn flourished towards
the middle of the fifteenth century. I shall now give a brief description of its contents. This MS. contains, as I just said, 349 folios, of which the first two written only on the recto have been added by the owner of the MS. On the first there are some notes, underneath which there is the following: : אין שאהין או מאל רפאל בן א׳ משיח הי״ו נאם דאר "This Shâhîn is the property of Raphael, son of Mashiah." On the second folio there are some essays in Hebrew and Persian versification. The poems of Shâhîn begin on folio $3^{a}$ : first a poem on the unity of God, then on God's speaking to Moses. Fol. $4^{\text {b }}$, a poem, דר מדח סלטאן בהאדיר (in praise of the hero, king Abû Saîd." It seems that there is a lacuna after fol. 4, because the catchword does not correspond with the first word on the next folio. The description of the creation during the six days occupies several folios, then he consecrates a long poem to the angel Azazel ${ }^{1}$. It is said in that poem that Azazel was one of the greatest angels who dwelt in heaven, and who taught science to the other angels. Then when Adam was created, and all the angels prostrated themselves before him according to God's command, Azazel did not bow. A long discussion follows after it between God and the angel.

Shâhîn follows the order of the and places the legends in consecutive order. There are several poems on Abraham, how he became aware of the existence of the true God, how he broke his father's idols, how he was thrown into the furnace and was saved by Gabriel ; the legends of Abraham persuading Aner, Escol, and Mamre to accept the practice of circumcision, and all the legends known about Abraham's sacrifice. At the end of פרשת וישלח, after the death of Isaac, the poet speaks of Job. He gives the story of his ruin, as it is told in the first two chapters of Job; then follows a discussion between Job and his wife, who is Dina, Jacob's daughter ; then how he recovered his

[^6]former state. The poems on Job occupy fols. $99^{\text {b }}-\mathrm{J} .02^{\text {b }}$. In פרשת וישב the poet speaks at some length about Joseph and Zûlaikha, for which he had ample material in Persian authors ${ }^{1}$. He tells besides, in two short poems that, when Jacob was on his way to Egypt, Zûlaikha came to meet him, that she told him her passionate love for Joseph, that she could not live without him, and that through Jacob's prayer she became young again, and that Jacob married her to Joseph ${ }^{2}$. I give the two poems, with an English translation, at the end of this article. There is a long poem on the legend of חושים בן דן throwing a stone into the Nile which destroyed Pithom and Raamses. A poem on a legend which figures also in the ספר הישר : at the burial of Jacob, Esau sought to enter into the cavern, and was killed by Husim, son of Dan.

The poet begins the book of Exodus also with a preface and an introductory poem. He describes at length the birth of Moses, and how he had been thrown by his mother into a burning furnace in order to conceal him from the search of Pharaoh's spies ${ }^{3}$. Then several legends about Moses when he was a shepherd; amongst others that he killed a wolf and a lion. I give the poem on the former legend at the end of this article.

The legends in the book of Numbers worthy of remark are about the wars between Eldad and מעחד ${ }^{4}$, between Eleazar and ${ }^{5}$, and between Joshua and Sihon.
${ }^{1}$ As Joseph and Zûlaikha were spoken of in the Koran, several Persian poets, amongst whom were Firdûsi (died ro50) and Jamî (died 1492), sang them in their poems, embellishing their diwans with legends which took rise in Persia.
${ }^{2}$ The same thing is found in the Moslem legends narrated by Ibn Abbas, but in a different way. According to Ibn Abbas, it is the angel Gabriel who made her beautiful again by touching her with the stick. Firdûsi also speaks of her marrying Joseph.
${ }^{3}$ It has a certain connexion with the Hebrew legend of Moses taking the burning coal into his mouth. Babai, the Hebrew-Persian poet of the eighteenth century, speaks of the same legend.
${ }^{4}$ Probably מעת
${ }^{5}$ It is probably a misspelling of قوهیبار) קודיאר), a mythical king of Persia.

All these poems are of the kind of mesnevi ${ }^{1}$ with the metre hazaj mahzûf, that is to say, every hemistich is composed of three feet, of which the third has one syllable less than the first two ( $\cup---|\cup---| \cup--\|)$.

On fol. $348^{\text {b }}$ there is the following colophon of the
 מ' אמינא ע״ דוה דר רוז ג שבת כ״ כוה במאה סיון שנת התסב ליצירה אלאהי אמיד וארם כה מבארך באשנד בר לאגנדהגאן אין כתאב ובר נויסנדה "This book of Shâhîn was terminated by the hand of the despised, the poor, the learned Mulla Amîna (peace be with him), Tuesday, the 25 th of the month of Siwan, 5462 of creation (June 19, 1702), O Lord, I hope that both the readers and the copyist of this book will be blessed. Amen."

As to the transcription, the copyist rendered the Persian
 often by the latter); $\dot{\xi}$ by $\dot{d}$, and sometimes by $p ; \cos ^{\text {by }} \dot{\text { b. }}$ In general the transcription is not carefully made, sometimes he used the $ב$ instead of the 9 , the $\ulcorner$ instead of the $\square$, and the $\rceil$ instead of the $p$; thus we meet with עברתי for עששק for עשך for מוצאי , נוישתה נבישתה, ,עורתי, and מוסאי It is possible that the original was written in Persian characters. I am inclined to think so by the following facts: first, very often a word is separated into two afterletters which are not connected with the following one. That may be a mere coincidence, but the mistake is repeated very often in the same way. Thus פֹראר is sometimes divided into פֿ , יאר, because in Persian characters it is written נאוא זניני is separated into, in Persian characters نازنيني, and many other words. It is true that these words have a certain meaning though thus separated, and the copyist not understanding the real meaning of the word mistook it for two. But there is never a separation after a letter which is connected with the following

[^7]one, even when there would be a meaning in it. Secondly, several other mistakes, such as a confusion between the 7 and $r$, the $כ$ and the 1 , show that the original was written in Persian characters. After all, I do not affirm this for certain.

The last folio is by a different hand; it has probably been added by the owner of the MS. It contains the beginning of Mulla Amranîs ${ }^{1}$ mesnevi versification of פרקי אבות; the recto contains the end of the preface, and the verso the beginning of the translation. Here are the first two verses ${ }^{2}$ :

Finally, I feel it my duty to thank Rev. G. Margoliouth, and Mr. A. G. Ellis, of the British Museum, for the many services they rendered me, Professor W. Bacher for his valuable remarks, and Mr. E. Adler for having kindly put at my disposal his MSS. for the purposes of collation.

## I.



[^8]
## HEBREW-PERSIAN MSS. OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM

צִיא דורדא בנרדה פטא מאלח
 כת אנדר עשק יספף השתח זארם בחוסן ذיש ראיים מי פודרם גִּה מן דל בר בנבוד אניר ממאגה
 נלוסבידי שבי ללק אז לאצלם בוחקן ליש בודם מסת שיויהא מרא כרד או בכאם כצם דושמן
 דלם רא מעדן דרד בלא ברד
 מכאני מערן דרדםת גִאנם בפירי הם זעיף ובי קרארם בבין דר רוי זרדם זאן נשׁאני תןיי אמרוֹ דר גיתי יגאנה ביוסף איצגִצין בר וא עמאנר ברי יוסף מדאר ${ }^{3}$ און תאזיאֹנה קלייذא גרדיר או פר פמאן דאוור
 בחק נאאלי יד דם און מוררם נלדאי בחר כאו וכוה ודריא
 זריף ונאיך ונגני מו"
ריצשע בהשר בליד גני ואקבאל טוי אב חיאת אנגִנין בוד דלי ארדא בונם או קוצחּ צמאל, קבול אמד רעצי פּר בנעאי
 תו פנרארי מגר חורי גנאן שוד טלב פרמוד יוסף רא יגאנה

בעורות גוּפת בר גוּיִּת חאלת בדו עורת בגוּת אי פתח רא דר ולייכא גופת צבורי אשד בארם ו ןִמیאל מן בذובי בוד יגאנה

 זֹذוד בא כם נבודם הייג פרוא וֹ
 מרא דר עשק יוסף מובתלא ברד

 20 בִואני רפת ואפבון פיר צזארם

נמירד אתשש עשזקם זמאפי
 אגר נה דאד מץ ראוור פתאנד בחק גִדת א׳י פיר יגאנה 25 בנזדש תאזיאנה דאשת מהתר בコרד אהּי זבאנש אתש אפֹוֹח דלי יעקוב בר וויי סוذת מוחבם
 fol. $155^{i}$ 30 קלייכֹא רא בגרדאן מאה רוי
 שוודר בכרי גִנאן בזפיש אי״ בוד דהם אורא ביוסף מן חלא
 35 קלייذא גשת עאגה נאזניצי
קופירי אז דעא נאגנה גִואן שוד אבא ذוד בורד אורא סוי ذאנה

[^9]${ }^{3}$ The MS. has בראר.

## II.

נכאח בסתן יעקוב אבינו יוסף ולליכא רא

פדר גרדיד אז וצל פסר שאחד
כה אז פּירי דיגר באר גשת ורנא אבר לובאן דיירר באר שאה גרדיד ענאית כרדה בא ביניגארה דר כאר בצובי ניסת דר עאלם נטּרש בסא פכתי בה או עשקת כשידסת

בגיתי דרדיגר ארון נדארד ולייכא רא חלאל כישתן כוּ
נמוד אנדר ומאן פּר כירדמנד
בשוד חייראן דראן רוֹצאאר זיבא
כה דר לובי נבודש היג זישתי בדאם עשך" ${ }^{1}$ אואגה דר אופתאד

זמהר או דרון זור וזבר שוד
המאן נִּא פּר כנעאן גשת קאצּ בהם דל שאד גשתנד און דו מחבוב

בווק פורמי באתם נשסתנד
כרימי בא כרם מעבוד קפּאר²
ברי מחבוב אורא מהרבאן כרו
המי כרדנד בא הם זנדגאני
חקיקח ריש בי מרחם נמאגד
רחים וראחם והם בי ניאוסת

בשוד יוסף בדי יעקוב גִון באד ביוסף גופת אחואל זליָכא ְבמאלש רשך ומהר מאה גרדיד רעאי מן קבול אומר נִּהאן דאר 5 סעאדת גשת נאגה דסת גירש בסא זהרי כה או מחרת גִּשידסת עיזי מצר מורד ואו שו נדארד תו אורא דר נכאח אוור בון כון בגוּת איץ וללייכא רא בפגרונר
 ננארי בוד גִון חור בהשתי גְה יוסף ריד אורא דל בדו דאד

קצּי אסמאני כארגר שוד
בעקר מאה יוסף גשת ראצּי
55 ולייכא רא ביוסף דאד יעקוב בר אפורנד ואז הנִראן ברסתנד כרם הא בא ולייֹא כרד גִבאר זפּרי באו אורא נוּ וּוּאן כרד בוזוק לורמי וכאם ראני 20 איא שאהין כטי דרגם נמאנד לודאי מא פודאי״ כאר סאזסת

## III.

Mr. E. Adler has also a copy of this MS., but it is not complete. I was able to collate with his MS. only the third poem. As the folios of Mr. Adler's MS. were not yet numbered I could not indicate the folio of this poem.

[^10]
## כושחּ כלים אלאח גרגרא דר צחראא


 בורש אב והואי לורם וכושׁ

בזיר הר גולי נקשי נהופּתה זהר גִּאגב רואן אז חוכם והאב
בתר גְא רוחה' רואאן ${ }^{3}$ המי ذאנד ובוייש מורדה ראדלמי שוד אגאה בהר סו בא גנם דא גשת מי כרד גוֹאל ומיש גְנדי דר רמירש בדשת אגדר המי רפֹתנד בי ذיש פרו קלטיר סנגי הול4 מנבר בר אומד בר כמר שוּלי סתורגי בוצל גוספנראן שאדמאן גשת כה דשת אז גוספנדאן בס5 מוירסת בסוי גוספנדאן רוי בנהאד6 זהייבת בר דלש אוֹר דר אופתאד. סלאמי ברד וגוּוֹת אי שיר וִבּאר

 אמאנת מי גִראנם ${ }^{7}$ כאם נאדאן אמאנת רא כיאתח גִּן תוּאן כרד נבאשר גררג גוּן מן מסת נִאלאך שכארי און גִּין בר נִא נמאגם
רואןֹ שוד סוי צחרא גאם גְּני

 5 ברוי סבוה הא קלטאן שודה אב כלים און גוספנדאן רא המי ראגד יכי אוּ יך כובתר בוד אן נִּה גאה טואפּי גרד כוה ודשת מי ברד שבי נאגה פראי כוה דידש oו שתאבאן ראה בגרפּתנד דר פיש בדיד או כוד שאן דונבאל סרוור Fol. $188^{n}$ קנם הא מִּן בדיד און גורג ברדשת בדל גופתא מרא אמרון עידסת 15 פֿרו גִסת או כמר לנדצאן דלשאחד זנאגה בר נבי נִשמשׁ דר אוֹתּאד גְּה מוסא רא בדיד אן גורג פון כאר כלימא סרורא בא מן כרם בון נבי גופחש כאי גורגי סתם גאר 20 נדאני בץ סראסר גוספנדאן אוין רה כה אומדי8 צוד ואגרד בנוֹתשש גורג איא פייגמברי פאך אגר בדהי ואגר נדהי סתאגם בְּה גוֹת און דר רבודש גוספנדי 25 נבי גִּן דידש און גִּסתי זחילאון

1 Ad. in.
${ }^{2}$ Ad. אוֹ.
 -روضُ رضوان

4 Ad. דול סגגי, but the metre is not good. 5 Ad. בוּ
6 Ad. גוספנראן רפ் צּון באר.
7 Ad. מי גִרנר א׳ כאוֹאם.
8 Ad. כאמרי רוו זוד.
9 Ad. מן גִוסת וגִלאך
10 Ad. רר פייש.
${ }^{11}$ Ad. צּון תיג בראן.


## TRANSLATION.

## I.

Zûlaikha came to meet the patriarch Jacob; SHE TOLD HIM HER GRIEF.
Jacob, his head raised up high, was filled with gladness; he went on rapidly, following the traces of fortune.
On the road he perceived a despondent woman, who had been ruined by the hand of misfortune.

[^11]Tearful, weak-sighted and mad with grief, she sat there; she bent forward her head to pray.
Sad, feeble, weeping and with tired eyelashes; her blood had left her face.
5 She said to Jacob: "For God's sake, stop for a moment thy chariot.
Thou must know my hidden secrets, I must tell thee my incurable sickness."
He said to the woman; "Tell me thy oircumstances; why has time afflicted thee?"
The woman said to him: "Open for a moment thy ear to listen to thy servant's affairs."
Zûlaikha continued: "I am suffering and shedding tears for my plaint is my love for Joseph.
ro There was no equal to me in beauty, I was always increasing in elegance.
My beauty was incomparable, a heart-ravishing-one like me existed not at that time.
My face was envied by the sun and moon, my cheeks were of rose, my lips of sugar.
In my face there was seduction for the oreatures of the world ; men could not sleep by night because of my image.
I gave myself to no man, I was drunk and insane with my own beauty.
${ }_{15}$ Suddenly fate laid a snare for me, it threw me into a violent and hostile passion.
It inspired in my brain taste and life, all at once it kindled me like a lamp.
It made me love-siok for Joseph ; it made my heart a store ${ }^{1}$ of painful sickness.
For thirty years I have been afflicted with love, welltimed or ill-timed, my eyelashes melt with tears.
I am feeble, pallid, afflicted and helpless, my soul is a well ${ }^{2}$ of sickness.

$$
{ }^{1} \text { Lit., a mine. } \quad \text { Lit., a mine. }
$$

vol. XV.

20 Youth hath gone and now I am old, wretched and decrepit; I am also feeble and wavering.
The fire of my love does not expire for a moment, see its traces on my pale face.
Listen to my cry for help, $O$ glory of these days! thou art to-day unequalled in the world.
If not, God will avenge me, such a burden will not keep back from Joseph.
By the right of thy grandfather, 0 rare old man! bring not that scourge upon Joseph."
25 There was near him a greater scourge, that was Zûlaikha, by the order of the Eternal.
She sighed, her words ${ }^{1}$ kindled a fire, the head of that scourge ${ }^{2}$ was set on fire by her sighs.
Jacob's heart was heated ${ }^{3}$ much for her sake and at once the honoured man brought his plaints before God.
Saying: "O maker of the nine elevated spheres, Lord of seas, mountains and rivers!
By thy awe and majesty, by thy greatness and eternity, $3_{30}$ Bestow upon Zûlaikha a face, like the moon, elegant and beautiful, and black hair.
That she may look as a fourteen years old maiden, that her face may be the key of treasure and happiness.
Let her become a virgin as she was before; let the splendour of the water of her life be as it was before.
I will give her to Joseph as his legal wife, I will deliver her heart from sorrow."
At once in a twinkling of the eye, by the order of the Lord, the prayer of the old man of Canaan was favourably received.
${ }_{35}$ Zûlaikha became suddenly a beautiful virgin, her limbs were like roses, her forehead like a graceful moon.
From an old woman she became through the prayer young again; thou wouldst think her a Houri from Paradise.

[^12]He took her along with him to the house and the incomparable man sent for Joseph.

## II.

Our father Jacob married Zûlaikha to Joseph.
Joseph sped towards Jacob like a wind, and the father became glad of meeting his son.
He told Joseph Zûlaikha's circumstances, that from an old woman she became a young maiden again.
That her beauty became the envy of the sun and moon; that she became again the queen of the fair ones.
"The master of the universe listened to my prayer, he aided the helpless one in a difficult affair.
${ }_{5}$ Fortune assisted her at once; there is not in the whole world one equal to her in beauty.
Much poison has she tasted because of her love for thee ; much hardship has she supported because of her passion for thee.
The Governor of Egypt has died, so that she has no husband; besides she has no other desire in the world.
Marry her, make of her thy wife, make of Zûlaikha thy legal wife."
The wise old man said this and at the same time showed Zûlaikha to his son.
ro When Joseph saw Zûlaikha's face he was amazed at its beauty.
It was a fair maiden like a Houri from Paradise, for there was no defect in her beauty.
After Joseph had seen her, he gave her away his heart ; he suddenly fell into love's snare.
Heavenly fate did its work; he was upset out of love for her.
Joseph consented to unite in wedlock with that moon; the old man of Canaan was the judge in that place.
${ }_{15}$ Jacob gave Zûlaikha to Joseph ; those two lovers were happy together.

They rested, free from the anguish of separation; they lived together enjoying happiness.
The Almighty God was generous to Zûlaikha; the misericordious God is generous to the noble.
From an old woman he made her young again; the Generous made her for her beloved one.
They passed together their life in enjoyment of delight and in the fulfilment of their wishes.
${ }_{20}$ Oh, Shâbîn! nobody does always remain in sorrow; in truth, a wound does not always be without a plaster.
Our Lord is a skilful artisan; he is merciful, misericordious, and applies to nobody for help.

## III.

The interlocutor ${ }^{1}$ of God killed a wolf in the desert.
For a second time the flock of sheep went joyfully its way; he ${ }^{2}$ drove it towards a pasture.
As soon as he saw that beautiful and delicious meadow, he invited there his friends ${ }^{3}$.
The water and air of that place were nice and delightful, a station like Paradise, a heart-attracting place ${ }^{4}$.
Roses of a thousand different colours flourished everywhere, a painting was hidden under every rose.
${ }_{5}$ Streams of water rolled on the verdant surface; they flowed on every side by the order ${ }^{5}$ of God.
Moses drove there the sheep, for, at every place, a Paradise invited him.
In that pasture, one spot was lovelier than the other, the heart of the dead was conscious of its perfume.
He went round the mountain ${ }^{6}$ and plain, on every side he walked with the flock.

[^13]One night ${ }^{1}$, he happened to look at the summit of the mountain, whence some gazelles and sheep were fleeing. ro They hastily ran forwards, and, mad with fear, went down into the plain.
The sublime man saw that some terrible creature rolled down from the mountain a stone after them.
Suddenly he perceived a rapacious wolf, an impertinent and impudent animal, walking on the summit.
Who, seeing the flock of sheep down in the desert, was very glad to join them.
The wolf said within himself: I will certainly have a festival to-day, for there are so many sheep in the desert.
${ }_{15} \mathrm{He}$ sprang down from the height, smiling and contented, and bent his steps ${ }^{2}$ towards the sheep.
The animal's eye, suddenly, fell on the prophet and his heart was set on fire out of awe.
When the blood-thirsty wolf saw the prophet, he saluted him and said: "O God's lion ${ }^{3}$ !
God's interlocutor, noble chief! be generous to me, give me some present [that I may carry away] from this place."
The prophet said to him : "O cruel wolf! why art thou in such a passion about it?
${ }_{20}$ Knowest thou not that all the sheep must graze in security, thou stubborn, ignorant creature?
Go back there whence thou hast come; how can treason be done to pledged security?"
The wolf said to him: "O prophet of the Pure Being! is not a wolf like me a furious cut-throat ${ }^{4}$ ?

[^14]Whether thou givest or thou givest not, I will take. I will not remain in this place a hunter of this kind ${ }^{1}$."
Having said that, he seized a lamb and walked off a few steps towards the desert.
${ }_{25}$ The prophet, seeing the animal's audacity, went at him like a feathered arrow ${ }^{2}$.
He came behind him like a torrent ${ }^{3}$, he seized the criminal and tore him in an instant.
He delivered the lamb from the wolf and returned glad and rejoicing to the flock ${ }^{4}$.
The generous cypress ${ }^{5}$ cut with scissors all the curled wool of the lamb.
He instantly twisted it into a strong rope which he tied solidly round the vile wolf's neck.
${ }_{30}$ When, having in an instant hung the robber by the neck ${ }^{6}$, the lion of God ${ }^{7}$ thus inflicted on him condign punishment.
The lamb stood far off, trembling, for it had come out ${ }^{8}$ from the wolf's claws.
The prophet came and kissed both its eyes, saying: "O thou who hast come out again from thy mother's womb ${ }^{9}$ !
God hath delivered thee from death's claws, he hath given thee once more a soul as a companion."
Then he carried it towards its friends, then he let it down in the midst of its companions ${ }^{10}$.
35 They walked for a while on the green, smiling, they showed their teeth on the water and green grass.

[^15]When the sheep were satiated ${ }^{1}$ with water and green and thus untied one another's girdle ${ }^{2}$,
The prophet made them march and drove them towards the house.
Shûaib ${ }^{3}$, the staff in his hand, stood far off,-he had missed the interlocutor of God ${ }^{4}$.
When, behold! Moses came up to him in a stately bearing, bringing a multitude of sheep.
40 Shûaib became glad again on account of Moses' arrival, he began anew to praise him.
His heart, soul, and tongue, all three together blessed every now and then the lion of God.
After the night has passed and the day appeared to the eyes of men, Moses, the lion of God, went out.
M. Seligasohn.
${ }^{1}$ Lit., drunk with water and green.
${ }^{2}$ That means, they were at their ease.
${ }^{3}$ That is the name which the Moslems give to Jethro.
${ }^{4}$ Ad., when he saw Moses [arriving] with a light.
(To be continued.)


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Rendiconti della Reale Accademia dei Lincei, 1885, p. 377. See also ZDMG., XLVII, 202.

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ For brevity sake I call the translation which I treat now A, that of Professor Guidi B, and that of Tavusi C.
    ${ }^{2}$ Ezek. xiv. 5. $\quad{ }^{3} 2$ Kings x. 14. $\quad{ }^{4}$ Job xvic 9.

[^2]:    ${ }^{1}$ Gen. xviii. 23. It is curious that he reads it with an $s$, while in reality it is with a $\pi$.
    ${ }^{2}$ I did not think it necessary to give here the Hebrew text and the Targum.

[^3]:    ${ }^{1}$ The second letter is effaced, but as it is a Friday I read מעוֹה "the day which introduces Saturday."
    ${ }^{2}$ It is probably for שׂאש.
    ${ }^{3}$ Is it the Hebrew דמין or the Persian ديوم ?

[^4]:    ${ }^{1}$ It is a miscalculation; it ought to be 5079, for the preceding year was not a leap-year.

[^5]:    כשאן : וצנין גפת אי יו״י כודאי באר

[^6]:    ${ }^{1}$ This angel, which is mentioned in the rabbinical folklore under the name of עואל, plays a preponderant part in Islamic legends, under the name of Iblis ( $\delta$ (áßonos).

[^7]:    ${ }^{1}$ It is a kind of poem in which the two hemistichs of every verse rhyme together.

[^8]:    ${ }^{2}$ It is thanks to Mr. E. Adler's MS. 47 that I could learn the author's name.
    ${ }^{2}$ The metre is also a hazaj, but of a different kind: the hemistich is composed of three feet, of which the first is called in Persian prosody akhrab, the second makbûz, and the third maksûr (--v|u-v-|u--\|).
    ${ }^{3}$ عورت. 4 The MS. has מרא.

    5 I propose to correct this word into נאבינא, otherwise there is neither metre nor sense.
    ${ }^{6}$ For זרוذשאר.

[^9]:    2 The text bears ורז7.

[^10]:    ${ }^{1}$ For עשק.
    2 ,

[^11]:    ${ }^{1}$ Ad. ברק אנדר קפא.
    ${ }^{3}$ Ad. גִגאן דירש סלאמת גשת דל שאור.
    
    
    ${ }^{10}$ Ad.
    ${ }^{12}$ Ad. וסבוה לש בנמורה.
    ${ }^{13}$ Ad. צוּ דין בא נוּ

[^12]:    ${ }^{1}$ Lit., her tongue. $\quad 2$ That is to say, that of Zûlaikha.
    ${ }^{3}$ Lit., burned intensely.

[^13]:    ${ }^{1}$ That is the epithet which the Moslems give to Moses.
    ${ }^{2}$ That is to say, Moses.
    ${ }^{3}$ That is to say, the sheep.

    - Ad., beautiful and heart-attracting.

    5 Ad., by the work of Gcd. ${ }^{6}$ That is, Mount Horeb.

[^14]:    ${ }^{1}$ This word is not quite intelligible.
    ${ }^{2}$ Lit., he put his face in the direction of the sheep. Ad., he went like the wind towards the sheep.
    ${ }^{3}$ An expression borrowed from Islam : Alî, the prophet's son-in-law, is called shiri khûd $\hat{a}$, "God's lion," while the prophet himself is shiri albashar, " men's lion."
    ${ }^{4}$ Ad., audacious cut-throat.

[^15]:    ${ }^{1}$ That means, disappointed like that. $\quad{ }^{2}$ Ad., like a cutting sword.
    ${ }^{3}$ Ad., like a lightning.
    ${ }^{4}$ Ad., seeing the safety of the lamb, he was filled with joy.
    ${ }^{5}$ Ad., the tall cypress, both epithets refer to Moses.
    ${ }^{6}$ Ad., having hung the robber by the neck on the gallows.
    ${ }^{7}$ Ad., the one who acts well.
    ${ }^{8}$ Ad., it had been freed.
    ${ }^{9}$ It means that the lamb was like one born a second time.
    ${ }^{10}$ Lit., those who dissipate sorrow.

